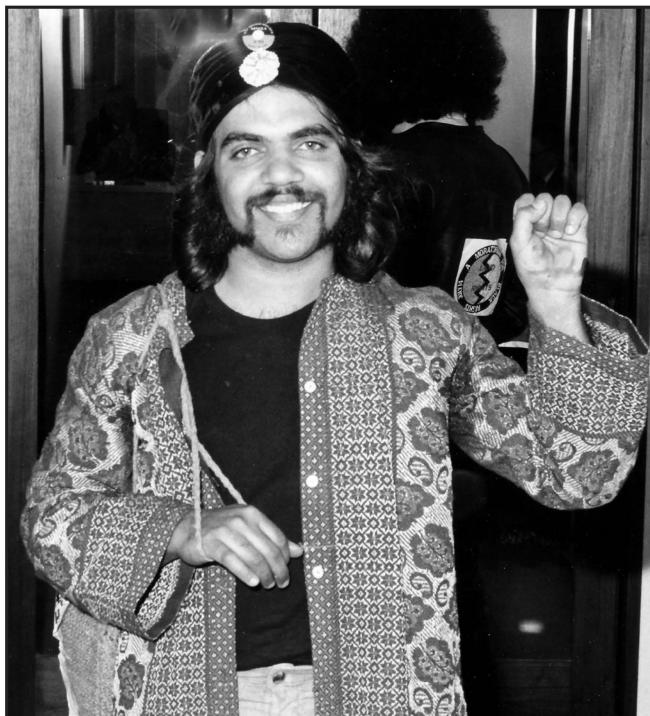


The Queensland Journal of Labour History

No. 30 Autumn/Winter 2020

\$5.00

The Brisbane Labour History Association



Sam Watson 1952–2019

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ISSN 1832–9926

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Editorial

Dean Wharton

The BLHA Executive hopes that all our members and readers are well and remain in good health throughout the current pandemic, and of course, when it is eventually over. As I write this, we are unsure whether we will be able to print hard copies of this edition. We may have to distribute this issue electronically to those who can access it. With this and so many other unknowns, such as when we are likely to have our next event, the BLHA Executive have decided to extend all personal memberships.

Normally you would receive a membership renewal with the Autumn/Winter edition of this journal, but **all personal memberships are now extended until the end of June 2021.**

The process of producing this issue has also been a little unusual. Normally the editorial team members meet up on an irregular basis and debate content and allocate work. Like everyone we have had to do much of the work for this issue remotely and in isolation. Sadly, this has coincided with the decision by Phil Griffiths to leave Brisbane for less sunnier climes. Phil has been joint editor of this journal for the last three years and his guidance and leadership over that period has been considerable. Greg Mallory and I thank him for his involvement and hope that he will

continue to be involved from afar, if possible. Thanks Phil.

Greg Mallory himself stood down as President of the BLHA at our AGM in November 2019 after 17 years in that position. Dr. Jeff Rickertt was elected as the new President of the BLHA. It is Greg's contribution to the last 30 years that Greg reflects upon in conversation with me in our first article. The article by its nature is highly subjective.

Over recent years this journal has published a series of articles about people who are making history today. This series continues with an account of the clash between the Quandamooka First Nations, the mining company Sibelco and the Newman LNP Queensland Government over sand mining and native title on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island. The focus of this material is an interview with Cameron Costello, Chief Executive Officer of the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC), the body corporate for Quandamooka land and waters.

In 1910 German Immigrants en route to Queensland on the SS *Osterley* held a May Day celebration on board ship. Andrew Bonnell's article provides us with much detail of the hysterical response of the Australian

press of the time.

The significant changes within Australian industrial relations over the past 30 years are discussed by John Martin in his article adapted from his PhD thesis from Griffiths University. The response of three trade unions to these changes, particularly by embracing centralisation, is detailed. For ethical reasons, John applied anonymity to the identity of the three unions in this article.

The journalist Henry Mayhew produced a series of articles throughout the 1850s that described the state and conditions of the working classes in England and its Empire. We have included an edited version of an article that first appeared in *The Morning Chronicle* on the 7 March 1850. In this Mayhew initially discusses the state of the British merchant fleet but goes on to allow the sailors to describe in their own words the conditions on board merchant ships for emigrants to Australia. With thanks to long-time contributor Humphrey McQueen who directed us to the original.

Unfortunately, we have more than our usual number of obituaries. In addition to these I would like to add a few personal words about Margaret Liessi who passed on in November 2019.

I met Margaret, and her sister Lynette Trad, several times over the last couple of years as I interviewed them about their father Alex Macdonald; research they themselves suggested in this journal several years ago. Margaret had the advantage over me of remembering

me from a time we had met, in completely different circumstances, many years before.

I regret that we didn't meet up more often and I will always remember how Margaret and my six-year-old daughter ended up in hysterics over a story being related. On behalf of the BLHA Executive I offer her husband Bruno, her sister Lyn, and both their families, our sincere condolences.

In our next issue we will start to publish edited sections of the memoirs of Victor Slater. We would like to hear from anyone who may know the whereabouts of Vic's family.